

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 326

By Crowe

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Rhoda Cates Hyder
on the celebration of her ninetieth birthday.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the elected representatives of the state of Tennessee should recognize citizens who have celebrated milestones in their venerable lives; and

WHEREAS, Rhoda Cates Hyder celebrated her ninetieth birthday on January 12, 1997, an occasion which was commemorated with great joy in remembering the past, giving thanks for the present and eagerly anticipating the future; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Hyder was one of seven children of Allen L. and Sallie (Whitehead) Cates; and

WHEREAS, on May 23, 1928, she was joined in holy matrimony with Nat E. Hyder, Sr., an outstanding educator, who served with distinction as Superintendent of the Carter County Schools for 11 years; the couple's happy union produced three very successful children, Dr. Nat Edens (Ed) Hyder, Jr., Lois Gretchen Hyder Fortune and June Hyder Walsh; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Nat E. Hyder, Jr., who is married to the former Elizabeth Inez Hurst of Meridian, Mississippi, is a family physician in private practice in Johnson City and is affiliated with the James H. Quillen College of Medicine of East Tennessee State University as Assistant Dean/Director of Medical Education with the Johnson City Medical Center. Gretchen Hyder Fortune has been a missionary to Brazil since 1958. June Hyder Walsh is a retired elementary school teacher of the Carter County Schools; and

WHEREAS, Rhoda Cates Hyder became a teacher before she finished high school and started teaching at Oak Hill Elementary School, a one-room school in Carter County. Mrs.

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Hyder next taught at Hopson Elementary School and Tiger Valley Elementary School, before her exemplary service as the first full-time School Lunch Supervisor for Carter County schools;

and

WHEREAS, after six years of outstanding service, Mrs. Hyder's love of children and the classroom, called her back to teaching, this time at Valley Forge Elementary School, where she remained for 25 years until her retirement in 1972; and

WHEREAS, she has been a valuable resident of Carter County for her entire life and is still an active member of the church she grew up in, the Doe River Baptist Church. She has evinced her deep faith in a variety of important church jobs, as the Training Union Director, as a tireless worker with youth, as Supervisor of the Watauga Lodge, of the Watauga Baptist Association, and as Director of the Summer Goodwill Center for the Watauga Baptist Association; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Hyder served expertly on the first Tennessee Advisory Council on Aging and was later appointed by Governor Lamar Alexander to the Tennessee Commission on Aging (1981-1990). She belongs to the Roan Mountain Garden Club, the Hampton Garden Club, the ZETA, IOTA Chapter of East Tennessee State University, the Roan Mountain Eastern Star, the Carter County/Elizabethton Senior Citizens, the Elizabethton Woman's Club, and the Daughters of the American Revolution. She has also served admirably as President of the Carter County PTA Council and the Valley Forge PTA, is a lifetime member of the Tennessee Parent Teachers Association, served as President of the Carter County Retired Teachers Association and serves diligently on the Elizabethton Public Library Board of Directors. In each of these capacities, she has reflected the finest traditions of the Volunteer State; and

WHEREAS, she is also a charter member of the First Families of Tennessee, is active in the Republican Party and attended the inauguration of President Ronald Reagan; and

WHEREAS, the members of this body find it appropriate to pause in their deliberations to specially recognize one of Tennessee's finest citizens; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE-HUNDREDTH GENERAL
ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

CONCURRING, That we honor and congratulate Rhoda Cates Hyder on the celebration of her ninetieth birthday and extend to her our best wishes for many happy returns.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.